

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

RECREATION TRAIL AND WALKWAY

(feet)
CODE 568

DEFINITION

A pathway prepared especially for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle travel.

PURPOSE

- * Provide users of recreation areas with travel routes for activities such as walking, sightseeing, horseback riding, and bicycling.
- * Preserve and protect soil, plant, animal, water, air, and visual resources.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to lands where prepared paths, trails, and walkways are needed for effective and safe use of the recreation resources.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Visual resources: Special attention shall be given to saving and maintaining key trees and other vegetation that have scenic value, provide shade, reduce erosion and runoff, provide den and food for wildlife, or add to the visual quality of the area. Route trails to take advantage of pleasing views.

Grade: Sustained grades shall be dictated by good judgment for the purpose intended, considering the topography, and shall not exceed 10 percent. Grades up to 15 percent for distances of 200 feet or less are acceptable for pedestrian and equestrian

trails. Steps should be provided on steep pedestrian trails and walkways.

Bicycle trail grades should average 3 percent or less. Maximum sustained grade is 4 percent and grades up to 8 percent may be used for short distances.

Erosion control or water diversions shall be required on grades that are erosive.

Width: The minimum tread width shall be 4 feet. Wider trails would be desired if the anticipated use is heavy enough to warrant the additional installation cost. The width in cuts for pedestrian trails on sidehill sections may be reduced to 3 feet if a greater width would increase the cost materially or adversely affect the visual resources.

All trees, shrubs, and fallen timber shall be removed for the specified width. Stumps shall be cut as close to the ground as possible. All protruding limbs shall be removed for a distance of 2 feet on each side of the trail and to the height specified.

Side slopes: Cut and fill slopes shall be stable for the soil or soil material.

Drainage: Adequate drainage shall be provided. A raised or elevated trail or walkway may be required for wet sites that cannot be drained.

Erosion control: Plans shall include provisions for control of erosion. Disturbed areas shall be established in vegetation as soon as practicable after construction. If soil or climatic conditions preclude the use of vegetation and protection is needed,

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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nonvegetative means, such as mulches or gravel, may be used. Seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching shall comply with the CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (342) conservation practice standard.

Bridges: Bridges shall be designed for the maximum expected loading with an adequate factor of safety.

Surfacing: If surfacing is required for a firm trail, the surfacing material may be pit or creek-run gravel, concrete, asphalt, or other material that can withstand the traffic and the elements at the site.

Safety: Due consideration shall be given to safety. Protection from slides and falling rocks shall be provided, if needed. Adequate directional and warning signs, handrails, bridges, and culverts shall be placed as dictated by the site and intended use.

General: Equestrian and pedestrian trails may vary from specific grades, widths, and clearing requirements if so dictated by location and topography.

All drainage, erosion control structures, bridges or other structural features shall be in accordance with accepted practices and shall be designed in accordance with appropriate Engineering Standards, Handbooks, and NRCS procedures.

All undesirable material such as soil high in organic matter, stumps, and large stones shall be removed from the tread area of the trail.

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner that erosion, dust, and sedimentation are minimized and held to acceptable limits.

CONSIDERATIONS

Accessibility by all users should be considered. Develop facilities that are accessible to individuals with physical handicaps wherever feasible.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing recreation trails and walkways shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the essential requirements for properly applying the practice to achieve the intended purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Provisions shall be made for maintaining all wearing surfaces, signs, and drainage structures.

Repair all erosion and maintain water diversions to control runoff.

Remove all obstacles such as stones and logs to keep the walkway open for travel.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MISSOURI CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION**

**FOR
TRAIL AND WALKWAY
(568)**

General

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner and sequence such that erosion and air and water pollution will be minimized and held within legal limits. **A land disturbance permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources may be needed if the disturbed area is greater than five acres in size.**

The completed job shall present a workmanlike appearance and shall conform to the line, grades, and elevations shown on the drawings or as staked in the field.

All operations shall be carried out in a safe and skillful manner. Safety and health regulations shall be observed and appropriate safety measures used.

All trees, shrubs, and fallen timber shall be removed for the specified width. Stumps shall be cut as close to the ground as

possible. All protruding limbs shall be removed for a distance of 2 feet on each side of the trail and to the height specified.

Special attention will be given to saving and maintaining key trees and other vegetation that has scenic value, provides shade, reduces erosion and runoff, provides den and food for wildlife or that adds to the aesthetics of the area.

All undesirable material such as soil high in organic matter, stumps, and large stones shall be removed from the tread area of the trail.

Walkways and trails shall be constructed to the planned grade and cross section. All drainage structures and surfacing shall be installed according to plans and detailed specifications. Safety features, including signs, guardrails, safety fences at key locations, and removal of existing fences, shall be according to the plans.

Additional details: _____

